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AVOID RECENT IMITATIONS!
SOUTHLAND'S MOSQUITO CONES.
Fatal to Insects. Harmless to animal life.
A cone burnt in the Brazier, a few minutes
before retiring will ensure a perfect rest and un-
disturbed sleep.

Manufactured only by

SOUTHLAND BROS. & BARCLAY,
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

Sold in boxes of 24 cones by all Chemists and
Stationers and by

A. S. WATSON & CO.

HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, and TIENTSIN PORTS.

Telephone No. 12.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Concurrendents, requesting Advertisements, should address, Printing, Binding, &c., should be addressed to the "Daily Press" only, and special business matters to the "Daily Press" only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until otherwise terminated.

One hundred copies of the "Daily Press" should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

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INTIMATIONS.

BROWN, JONES & CO.
AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE
TILES, MARBLES,
HEADSTONES AND COLUMNS
in Stock.
Prices moderate. Work Promptly Done.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.



CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED
WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

"BOMBAY SODAS."

We continue to supply large bottles at nominal rates, *Five of Extra Charge*, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS.

wherever practicable are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Expenses when received in good condition.

Counter Order Books supplied free on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."
And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATER
SOADA WATER
LEMONADE
POTASH WATER
SELTZER WATER
LITHIA WATER
SAESAPARILLA WATER
TONIC WATER
GINGER ALE
GINGERADE
LEMON SQUASH
RASPBERRYADE.

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong. [18]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only special messages relating to the news column should be addressed to "The Press."

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No general communications that have appeared in other papers first will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication; after that hour the supply is limited.

Telegraphic Address, *Press*.
P. O. Box 39. Telephone No. 12.

DEATH.

At the Glenties, Carter Road, Shanghai, on the 25th May, 1883, MARCUS EDWIN TOWNSLEY (late Deputy Commissioner of Customs), aged 31 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MAY 31, 1883.

No factor in the China trade seems to hold its own better than the great middlemen, bequeathed to us by the commercial pioneers. He has attached himself to the mercantile as the *Shuyan* has to the official service, and though often denounced, and not infrequently attacked, he has yet proved himself indispensable. The 2 per cent. of legitimate commission which the comprador has been in the habit of intercepting between his foreign employer and his native constituents has been felt to be such an intolerable burden on trade that at one time there was a general cry raised for the abolition of the comprador altogether. It was thought that the chief barrier to his extinction was the ignorance of foreign merchants, which on its own merits was discreditable to them, and which was eradicated with the chief if not the sole reason for the employment of a native manager. Under the impulse of this feeling a determination to study Chinese became popular for a time. Several Englishmen, and a great many Germans as well as French, acquired the language; and with good practical results in several instances which could be mentioned. The large houses also began a system of student interpreters on the principle of the Consular service; and the big banks went so far as to offer a premium for the acquisition of Chinese by members of its staff. The success of the student system has not, however, been very marked, apparently for two reasons. First, the student of Chinese must begin young; and before his general qualities have been proved, so that after a few years devoted to the language it may be discovered that the student has not the capacity to make any practical use of it in his employer's business. Secondly, the man who has learned to speak Chinese is apt to be kept at some station where the accomplishment is valuable, at the risk of having his career spoiled by being deprived of the chance of learning general business and of pushing his way among his contemporaries. A knowledge of Chinese may therefore be the means of condemning a young man to fossilization. It was also occasionally found that, however valuable the mastery of Chinese might be, it was not everything, and that a man might be good at that and good at nothing else. A well balanced head, intelligence, a knowledge of human nature, and especially of the Chinese variety of it, are after all of infinitely greater importance than any mere technical accomplishment; and some of the worst business failures have been in the linguistic ranks.

Partly, it may be, through laziness, but mainly through the necessity of knowing the intricacies of Chinese manners and customs,

maxims and principles of action, the confidential native agent still retains his sway over the foreign merchant. He is able to adapt himself to his environment, and to suit all sorts and conditions of men. At one time he is head servant, at another head master; all is equal to the clever comprador who refuses to be beaten by circumstances. This Protean capacity, however, seems to lead to much ambiguity in the relation between the comprador and his foreign employer, or *employe*—for it is often difficult to distinguish. Whether he be servant or master, it is generally understood that it is the comprador who makes the money, and many a merchant prince would at the end of 20 or 30 years' labour be happy to exchange fortunes with his sleek comprador. In many instances the comprador has been, probably it is still, the banker of his patron, in which capacity he of course controls all his operations. It is a question of solvency the position of the comprador is therefore of more importance than that of the nominal master. In branches of great houses and banks the comprador is often tacitly recognized as the real manager, the foreign figurehead being selected less for his real capacity than for his pliability to the comprador's manipulation.

Such an important personage is not likely to fitter himself in any of his business operations. He may not only act as the responsible controller of two or more foreign firms, but he may carry on extensive business on his own account, or in connection with native partners. It is not therefore to be wondered at under these circumstances if the question, Who is he? comes to be rather frequently asked. The ambiguous position of the comprador has often been used as a cover for the shady doings of the foreigner, and the facility for evading legal obligations which the peculiar relationship affords seems to offer very strong temptations to needy men, and to others who find themselves in a difficulty. It cuts two ways, indeed half-a-dozen ways. The comprador's transactions may be protected by the name of his nominal employer, and vice versa, and we have recently seen that legal obligations may be evaded or enforced according to the way in which a foreign or native official may happen to twist the peculiar relationship between the foreign firm and its comprador. Fortunate litigation has arisen from disputes as to the identity of the parties to a transaction; and the comprador's system undoubtedly opens the door to much wrongdoing on the part of merchants and perversion of justice on the part of officials. As my guidance can be obtained from text books in such cases every Judge or Consul who has to deal with them has to be a law to himself; and consequently the variety of treatment has been considerable. It would, however, be no amiss for Chambers of Commerce to interest themselves in the matter, and endeavour to define the position of the comprador to mercantile firms in such a way that the public may be put on its guard in dealing with the compound principal, and the Courts of Justice may not be left to founder in a fog.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Dardanel* left Singapor yesterday morning for this port.

The adjourned meeting of the Legislative Council will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday instead of Thursday.

Mr. Boyd Bradon, who has recently returned from three years' leave, has been appointed Commissioner of Customs at Chufao.

The P. O. steamer *Fora*, with, &c., from San Francisco to the 13th inst., has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port at noon today.

The *Express of Japan* arrived at Nagasaki at 7 a.m. on Monday and left again at 4.30 p.m. the same day for Vancouver via Kobo and Yokohama.

The China Mutual steamer *Opoch*, which arrived yesterday morning from Singapore, reports having spoken a large sailing signal letters RVNS in lat. 12° 20' N. long. 110° 40' E. on New York for Hongkong, and the *Glenties* of the *Glenties* on Tuesday and on arrival at Wansing, on Tuesday, discharged 2,000 packages of tea into the *Malbourn*.

The *S. P. Petrel*, which was to have left Yokohama for Behring Sea on Saturday last, received a telegraphic despatch from home early evening, 19th, cancelling her orders. The *Yankee* was also told that this adds that it is thought probable that the possible trouble in Siam may have something to do with it.

It appears, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the *Whampoa* was floated off the rocks once too soon, for the bad scarcely been beached the steamer again, and when the waves came on that had the steerage deck, so that the ship was in imminent danger. She must be given a new position, so that she may be safe to proceed. She is expected in Shanghai some time this week.

According to information received by the Japanese Consul at Chufao, says the *Mercury*, the *Minchien* and *Wadivostok* has sent a request to Chufao that the *Wadivostok* should be sent to China on the 1st of January to the 23rd April 1883, so that after a few years devoted to the language it may be discovered that the student has not the capacity to make any practical use of it in his employer's business.

Advises from Tientsin says the *N. C. Daily News* that owing to the rain and consequent flourishing appearance of the summer crop in Chihli province, it has been decided by the high authorities to stop receiving further subscriptions for the famine districts of the province, and that the surplus of the famine funds will be devoted to relieving the wants of the sufferers in Shantung.

A Canton correspondent sends to the *N. C. Daily News* the following:—Owing to over half-a-million taels having already been subscribed by the wealthy merchants and gentry of Canton the famine funds of the provinces of Chihli and Shantung, the year previous to that upon the further philanthropy of these people for aid to Shantung has received no encouragement, and as the high provincial authorities cannot compel any one to subscribe towards a benevolent object, and for fear lest the Chinese should show disapproval at the apathy displayed in this matter, H. E. Han-chung, the Viceroy of the Two Kiang provinces and Kiangsu, and Governor of Kwangtung, gave orders at the end of last month to the Civil and Military Pay offices at Canton to deduct forty per cent. of the pay for the dead moon of all Government employees from the Viceroy down to the meanest of the meanest. The authorities professed in their report to the Viceroy that the Chinese were not "not the joyful approval of every one concerned," but the writer is sure that he heard more than grumbling, especially amongst the poorer, less educated officials and soldiers, at this arbitrary way of enforcing a subscription, as the Chinese were compelled entirely upon their scanty pittance to keep up the famine relief during each month. Something like Tha 216,000 have been gathered by this "voluntary" contribution and, of course, none but the promoters of the scheme expect to gain Imperial approval by it.

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